



Funeral Consumers Alliance of Rhode Island

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NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2025

SHIPPING CREMATED REMAINS

The United States Postal Service (USPS) is the only shipping company that ships cremated remains. To increase the visibility of packages containing cremated remains and to ensure those packages are more secure for processing and a timely delivery, effective March 1st 2025, customers are now **REQUIRED** to use USPS Priority Mail Express Cremated Remains boxes (BOX-CRE)



for ALL cremated remains shipments. This includes remains shipped as jewelry, blown glass or other artisan works of art. Go to [USPS.com](https://usps.com), FAQs for more information.

CEMETERY PURCHASES

Many people ask about funeral costs, but often they forget about cemetery expenses, which can be substantial. Buying burial rights at a cemetery can be a complicated and costly process, and cemeteries aren't sufficiently regulated in most states. It's important to know exactly what you're buying, and what your rights are.

When you buy a grave, you haven't actually bought a piece of property. You've bought the right to be buried in a particular space, whether a full-body grave, mausoleum crypt, or a niche for ashes.

In addition to the cost of the grave, the cemetery will charge an opening and closing fee at the time of burial.

(continued on the next page)

IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 1 Shipping Cremated Remains Cemetery Purchases
- Page 2 Death Cafes
- Page 3 2025 FCA Conference
Cremation for Pets
Planning Ahead
Barbie Special
- Page 4 Women Working in Deathcare
Our Mission
- Page 5 Putting Some Fun in Funerals
- Page 6 Planning Agent Form
POA for Healthcare Form
- Page 7 You Can Become a Mermaid in the AfterLife
- Page 8 Green Burial for Veterans
Before I Go...You Should Know
- Page 9 FCA Affiliate Directory
- Page 10 Available Free Pamphlets
- Page 11 Iowa Woman Becomes Funeral Director
Please Stop Spreading Human Ash in Public

WARNING LETTERS

The Federal Trade Commission is sending warning letters to 39 funeral homes across the country after investigators conducted the agency's first undercover phone sweep and discovered several violations of the Funeral Rule, including funeral homes that failed to provide accurate pricing information or failed to give out price information entirely.

Printed copies of this newsletter are available. Just send your request to our East Greenwich address shown above. Include your mailing address and \$1 to help with the postage cost.

CEMETERY PURCHASES

(Continued from page 1)

This covers the cost to dig the grave and fill it in again, or to entomb a casket or urn in a mausoleum or columbarium. The rate may vary according to the size of grave, and time of day, week or year.

A vault completely encloses the casket in the grave; it can be made of concrete, steel or lightweight fiberglass-type materials. A less expensive alternative is a liner which covers the casket only on the top and sides. While no states require a vault, many cemeteries do. The vault prevents the ground from sinking as the casket deteriorates over time, making it easier to mow the grass with heavy equipment. The installation cost may be included in the price of the vault, but sometimes it's separate.

Be aware that no casket, vault or container will prevent the body from decomposing, even those marketed as 'sealed' or 'airtight,' and none will keep out air, water, or dirt indefinitely. If someone tries to sell you an expensive vault to protect the casket, they're manipulating your emotions with unrealistic promises.

The marker or headstone for a grave can be purchased from the cemetery, monument company, or even online, depending on the cemetery's restrictions. Any engraving will be an extra charge, and installation can cost several hundred dollars.

Because regulation is so lax, cemeteries can insist that the customer buy the headstone from them, or impose a ludicrous "inspection fee" for markers purchased elsewhere. In one case, a Mississippi cemetery tried to charge a man \$2.50 per square inch to inspect the marker he bought from a local business. He would have paid the cemetery three times what the marker cost just for the staff to (allegedly) inspect it.

Unlike funeral homes, cemeteries are not required by law to give you a printed price list before you buy, and no federal regulations give cemetery customers the right to buy only the services and merchandise they want. In addition, only a few states require cemeteries to give you a copy of the rules pertaining to allowable markers, grave decorations, plantings, and visiting hours before the sale.

Cemetery prices vary widely around the country, but you can expect to pay at least \$2,500 for

a full-casket burial. You can expect to spend about \$700 to \$1,500 for a grave liner or vault, and perhaps \$1,000 for a marker including engraving and setting.

A cemetery will likely charge a maintenance fee to cover upkeep of the graves & grounds. This fee, often 5% to 15% of the plot price, will be added into the cost of the grave or entombment space, though few cemeteries will bill the family annually instead.

Before You Buy:

Before You Buy:

— Consider the convenience of the location, and whether it meets your family's religious requirements, if any. Check online reviews for complaints.

— Get a printed price list for all goods and services.

— Preview the contract and ask for a copy of the rules and regulations. Check for the type and size of monuments that are allowed, since the cemetery can refuse to accept one deemed inappropriate. Check the restrictions on grave decorations. Most cemeteries will prohibit glass items, and some exclude other decorations like toys, statues, shrubs, and fencing.

— Don't do business with any cemetery that won't provide all this information in advance.

(See the free FCA pamphlet 'Guide to Cemetery Purchases')

DEATH CAFES

(from a 2-24-25 article by Cat Makino, Coachella Valley News)

Death Cafes give attendees safe spaces to talk about emotional and practical matters surrounding loss. They sit around a table eating cake and sipping tea while talking about death. To some, it might sound creepy — but not to Eduardo Santiago, who attends a death café that meets once a month. He says, "People don't want to talk about death. It's socially dangerous, and even at home, people don't want to talk about it. I want to talk about it, because I'm curious about understanding death and preparing for it."

Art Simon, a death café facilitator, says, A lot of us are taught if we're feeling sad or hurt or upset, we shouldn't burden other people, that they don't want to hear about death, and we

(continued on page 4)

WATER CREMATION FOR PETS

Excerpts from a 10-21-24 article by Analisa Romano in the
Denver Business Journal

A former funeral director, John Moody, recently opened Denver's first location to offer alkaline hydrolysis (water based cremation) for household pets. "I see our pets mostly as integral family members for most people," he said. "I'm just wanting to extend that same level of care that we offer our family friends, to our pet friends".

The process uses a water-based solution with 5% potassium hydroxide, which mimics natural decomposition, Moody said. The solution is gently washed over animals in a special unit for about twenty hours, at which point only the skeleton remains. That is ground and returned to the owner.

Pricing varies based on whether the owners would like the animal processed individually or with others. The process cost ranges from \$80 for "communal aquamation" for a small animal two pounds or lighter to \$550 for a fully private process dedicated to any sized animal.

All steps of the process are eco-friendly, Moody said. The water used in the dissolution process is a natural fertilizer. Moody said he keeps it in a tank and looks for partners, like tree farmers or park systems to repurpose it.

CONSIDER A DONATION TO FCA-RI

We depend on financial support from members to be able to continue our mission and to provide much needed resources to consumers. Our expenses (which have increased in recent years) include:

- quarterly dues paid to FCA National
- maintaining a telephone line for inquiries
- postage, envelopes, paper, ink etc.
- printing of newsletters, labels, pamphlets, price surveys and other materials
- maintenance of our website
- hiring of guest speakers for public events
- room rental charges for public events
- table rental fees at the yearly SAC expo

You can help cover some of these costs with a tax-exempt donation to FCA-RI. Donations of any size will really help. Thank you !

2025 FCA CONFERENCE

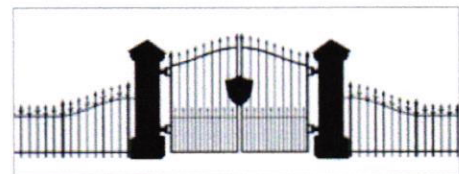
**Thursday June 26th
to
Sunday June 29th**

in Raleigh, North Carolina

It will feature a remarkable array of speakers. There will also be a tour of an alkaline hydrolysis facility as well as a tour of a conservation burial ground. Check for hotel and registration information at www.funerals.org

PLANNING AHEAD: ADVANTAGES

1. You may choose the type of funeral service you desire.
2. You will save your survivors from making choices during the stress of bereavement.
3. You can do comparison shopping at available funeral homes.
4. You can make knowledgeable and thoughtful decisions.
5. You will be stimulating family discussion, sharing, and decision-making.



BARBIE

Some funeral homes in Mexico, El Salvador and across Latin America are cashing in on the success of the Barbie film by offering bright pink coffins. The Olivares Funeral Home is advertising it's "Barbie House" casket design.

DEATH CAFES

(Continued from page 2)

don't want to be a 'Debbie downer'. The more we normalize this topic, it can help our psychological health and help everybody."

Simon also notes that the café is also a place to discuss practical matters, like the today's new burial options.

Bronwyn Jones, who is a co-facilitator, says There are all kinds of death in this life. The loss of a job is a death, and people can come to the death café and talk about the job or the divorce that they're going through or a pet tha tjust died' They're beside themselves. People come with all kinds of issues of loss and grief. it's not therapy. It's not counseling. The counseling is sharing experiences and feeling safe to talk about what they find is difficult to talk to just anybody about. It's a safe and loving space.

Death cafes are taking place in cities all around the world, including many in Rhode Island. It was a concept developed by Bernard Crettaz, a Swiss sociologist who organized the first death café in 2004. His approach to death and dying pushed for open, honest dialogue, which became the cornerstone of every death café. The cafes are held in restaurants, community rooms and homes; they can also be held online, and are usually open to anyone, of any age.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE:

Funeral planning presentation at the Fuller Learning Center, East Providence Library

Funeral planning presentation for the Central Falls Housing Authority at Senior Housing

OCTOBER:

Senior Agenda Coalition Conference & Expo at the Crowne Plaza, Warwick Exhibitor Table

Note: Exact dates and times for these events are not yet determined !

WOMEN WORKING IN DEATHCARE

Notes from a March 7 article by Linh Ta - Axios Des Moines

More women are entering the historically male-dominated funeral industry, In the 18th and 19th centuries, women played major roles in deathcare, including watching over the dyin and laying out their bodies. But that shifted when embalming became the norm, which women were excluded from.

There's a dated perception that funeral directors are "old white men", but these days women are outpacing men in mortuary science enrollment, according to the National Funeral Directors Association.

In 2007, 40% of students enrolling in mortuary science programs were women and 60% were men. On 2019, 72% of enrollees were women and 28% were men. The funeral industry is shifting to more personalization. People are also more open to talking about grief and mental health in recent years,

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Rhode Island is to protect the right to choose meaningful end-of-life options. We educate consumers, provide state-wide price information and supply resources and encouragement for preplanning.



Contributions to the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Rhode Island are fully tax deductible !

PUTTING SOME FUN IN FUNERALS

excerpts from The Amateur's Guide to Death & Dying. A September 7, 2024 article by Richard Wagner

Annabel Nugent, Reporting from London

In the affluent neighborhood of Crouch End in London, a new business is attracting some attention. The store front's blue-and-white facade is airy and minimalist. Three polka-dot vases on plinths sit in the window. To the casual observer, the space might look like an art gallery. But through the window is something a little more curious: a sea-foam-green box measuring 7 feet by 2 feet.

It's generally upon noticing the box that passers-by will do a double-take of the shop's signage: Exit Here. The polka-dot vases aren't vases, they're urns. the box is a coffin. And in the back, unknown to them, is a 12-person morgue.



Oliver Peyton, a renowned restaurateur, says of the reactions to his funeral home's name, "You either love it or you hate it. My mother-in-law hates it". Mr. Peyton founded the first branch of Exit Here in the neighborhood of Chiswick in 2019 as a modern alternative to traditional funeral parlors. He is a familiar face on the British hospitality scene: he was founder of the Atlantic Bar & Grill in West London and served as a judge on the BBC show "Great British Menu".

He became interested in the mortuary business while planning a funeral for his father, who died in 2010. He felt that there weren't enough choices in the process. He believes funeral planning is not so different from hospitality. "It's still a service industry," he said. "We're taking care of people at a very heightened emotional period in their lives,"

Exit Here is among a small group of funeral homes around the world ---- like Sparrow in New York, Poppy's in London and Altima in Spain ---- with a modern feel. Exit Here, with its velvet upholstery and curved archways, resembles a fancy members-only club. Altima, a chain of forty homes, builds parlors that resemble art galleries, featuring marble and lattice brickwork. The walls at Sparrow are dusty rose and forest green. and there is always incense burning. Looks aren't everything, of course. These businesses also offer non-traditional services like support groups for the bereaved and memorials personalized down to every detail.

Steven Wilson, 47, discovered Exit Here in 2020 on a walk near his house in Chiswick. "What a brilliant name," he thought to himself. After being diagnosed with acute leukemia, he returned to start planning his own funeral. He found past memorials that he attended to be utterly impersonal. Mr. Wilson, who worked in philanthropy, said his own funeral was going to be 'fabulous'.

He saw it as a gift to have time to plan his own funeral. "It sounds strange, but I want people to enjoy it," he said. Instead of traditional programs, memory books divided into eras of Mr. Wilson's life will be handed out as a professional funeral celebrant belts out numbers from his favorite musicals. And later at the crematory: "My Way" by Frank Sinatra.

Continued on the next page:

What kind of funeral will there be for you ? You have more choices than you think !
Talk it over and plan NOW. Or, someone else will make decisions you may not have wanted.

PUTTING SOME FUN IN FUNERALS (Continued from previous page)

For much of her life, Natividad Hawkins, who lives in Hillside NJ, knew of only one funeral home in the neighborhood where she grew up. "It was where we all went when someone died," said Ms. Hawkins. She arranged her mother's funeral there in 2021. "The lady working there was very nice, but it was very much a transactional thing". Last year, after attending at funeral at Sparrow in Greenpoint, she realized there were other options. She was struck by how beautiful the space was and how uplifting the service turned out to be.

People have been known to wander into Sparrow, which opened in 2021, thinking it's a spa. The home has a morgue and two "celebration rooms" as they're called for memorials, as well as a shop, where candles and condolence cards are sold. Sparrow's founder, Erica Hill, says services are aimed at people who are looking for something that feels "warm and inviting".

Younger people especially are getting more comfortable talking about death. Death doulas, who provide support for the dying — and in some cases, the grieving too, are now becoming popular. End-of-life planning sites, which are marketed toward millennials have sprung up and are easy to navigate. Traditional funeral homes are adapting to changing ideas about funerals. One U.K. provider has introduced more colors for its coffins and now offers unconventional hearse options, like a fire truck or a double-decker red bus. A recent study involving 4,000 people in the U.K., found that 68 percent of participants see funerals as celebrations of life as opposed to somber occasions. It's important for families to have options at their funeral homes that reflect those beliefs.

Sparrow hosts events that reflect the evolving attitudes about funerals, like grief circles; a death-themed comedy show; guided meditations; and several death cafes, where people who are dying or coping with grief can eat pastries and connect. Exit Here, too, holds regular coffee gatherings for the bereaved.

What about pricing: Exit Here's signature wooden coffin has a retail price of 1,950 pounds (about \$2,500). A biodegradable cardboard model is available for 570 pounds or (about \$750). Sun Life found that the average cost for a "basic" funeral — burial or cremation; funeral home fees; a mid-range coffin; a limousine; and celebrant fees — in London was 5,171 pounds (about \$6,640).

See full article at →

<https://theamateursguide.com/2024/09/07/theyre-putting-some-fun-in-funerals/>

PLANNING AGENT

Who will be responsible for making all of the arrangements and decisions regarding your funeral preparation and planning, and burial or disposition of your remains? You can appoint someone to have sole responsibility for the task by preparing the Rhode Island Planning Agent Designation Form. The form may be found online at: →

www.health.ri.gov/forms/legal/FuneralPlanningDesignation.pdf

www.health.ri.gov/forms/legal/DurablePowerOfAttorneyForHealthCare.pdf ←

POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE

A Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care gives legal authority to someone to make decisions and give consent for medical treatment on your behalf while you are LIVING and only when you are unable to do so yourself. A form to use to prepare the document may be found online at: →

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.funerals-ri.org for announcements of upcoming events, copies of past newsletters, links to forms and publications, our Funeral Home Price Survey, and much more.



YOU CAN BECOME A MERMAID IN THE AFTERLIFE

excerpts from a Oct 15, 2024 article by Michelle Del Rey, INDEPENDENT NEWS

About three miles off the coast of Miami Beach in Biscayne Bay lies an underwater oasis for the dead. In forty feet of clear water across a sprawling sixteen-acre plot are cremated remains of around 1,500 people in a place called Neptune Memorial Reef. Some of its inhabitants have been molded into starfish, mermaids, sea shells, sharks, turtles, manatees and octopus sculptures. They are then laid to rest in an artificial reef.

The cemetery, designed by south Florida sculpture artist Kim Brandell, was constructed using a series of road columns and arches. Relatives often have a celebration of life on board the company's boat then dive to place their loved ones remains among the marine life. It makes the site one of the most unique cemeteries in the United States.

The experimental cemetery began in 2007. Originally the idea was to create an artificial reef based on the Lost City of Atlantis. As stakeholders began obtaining permits to construct the installation, one of them thought to incorporate a memorial with the aim of making the remains part of the reef itself. Remains are delivered to the cemetery's office where they are mixed with concrete. The blend is then molded into any form and marked with the deceased's name and placed in the water. Pathways, benches, statues, plaques, and gates influence the reef to appear like a memorial ground. The company laid its first person to rest in that first year. The cemetery claims it's the only underwater cemetery in the world, and thousands of people have reserved their spots on waitlists. Renowned chef Julia Child has a starfish placement there. Families from Europe, South America, and Canada have flocked to the reef to have their loved ones laid to rest in the ocean.

There is currently room for the remains of up to 250,000 people, and the reef will expand if there is demand.. The company has obtained permits from the Army Corps of Engineers and Miami-Dade County Division of Environmental Resources Management, granting it the ability to develop the site indefinitely. The reef is protected and boat anchors can't be dropped at the reef. Visitors can't disturb the marine life or monument placements.

"There is a completely different feel and setting that a family gets when they do a celebration of life at the Neptune Reef as opposed to a more traditional ceremony" said Michael Tabers, the memorials director. He has spent his career in the funeral business and adds "It's a very much more relaxed atmosphere. We're on a boat, so everyone is dressed comfortably... you can see the skyline of Miami Beach and Key Biscayne behind you".



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7

The company offers several packages starting at \$9,995. Consumers can also purchase memorial sculptures for their pets or opt to have their human remains comingled with those of their furry friends. For those who do not wish for remains to be put in a placement sculpture, the company offers a "scatter at sea" option that comes with a copper engraved plaque that's fastened to one of the existing structures.

The reef is considered to be an environmentally conscious way of disposing of remains and is certified by the Green Burial Council.

The reef is the most popular dive site in Miami and tourists constantly flock to the underwater constellation of memorials for a peak at the stunning scene. "Families are comforted by the constant visitors", Tabers said, "ensuring their loved ones won't ever be short of company".



Have you considered what immediate decisions must be made by your family when you or they die ? When a death occurs in a family that has done no advanced planning, the survivors may accept conventional and costly funeral arrangements because of social pressure, emotional stress, or lack of time.

SAC CONFERENCE

Our exhibitor table at October's Senior Agenda Coalition Expo attracted much attention. Visitors this year expressed interest in the newer methods of body disposition. Copies of our Autumn newsletter were available as well as numerous free pamphlets.



BEFORE I GO, YOU SHOULD KNOW

Our comprehensive end-of-life planner is now available for \$15 in either English or Spanish. Don't take your last wishes to the grave.

Before you go, they should know:

- your funeral plans
- where your important papers are
- who should take care of your pets
- who to call when the time comes
- passwords for your accounts

To order, send your check to:

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Rhode Island
119 Kenyon Ave., East Greenwich, RI 02818
Be sure to specify English or Spanish !

VA OFFERING GREEN BURIAL

UPI, November 26, 2024

The Department of Veterans Affairs is offering environmentally friendly burial sections in three of the national cemeteries for US military veterans. The "green burial sections" are available at the National Memorial Cemetery in Phoenix, Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell and Pikes Peak National Cemetery in Colorado Springs, CO.

Ronald Walters, acting under secretary for memorial affairs, said "This pilot reflects our commitment to understand and address the emerging burial preferences of veterans and their loved ones"

The NCA will use biodegradable coffins or urns or a securely wrapped and biodegradable shroud to bury the cremated and non-cremated remains of the veterans. Information on VA burial benefits is available by calling 800-827-1000 or by visiting a VA national cemetery.

2023 FCA Affiliate Directory

Arizona

FCA of Arizona
P.O. Box 12661
Tucson, AZ 85732
(520) 306-4936
fcaofaz@gmail.com
www.fcaaz.org

Arkansas

FCA of Northwest Arkansas
P.O. Box 3055
Fayetteville, AR 72702
(479) 966-9852
Fca.nwa@gmail.com
www.funerals.org/affiliates/NWArkansas/

California

FCA of Humboldt
P.O. Box 856
Arcata, CA 95518
(707) 822-8599
fcahumboldt@gmail.com
www.fcahumboldt.org

FCA of Monterey Bay
P.O. Box 2900
Santa Cruz, CA 95063
(831) 661-0328
montereyfca@gmail.com

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13446 Poway Road, PMB 207
Poway, CA 92064
(858) 391-1267
Volunteer@sdmsonline.com
www.sdmsonline.com

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FCA of San Joaquin & The Mother Lode
P.O. Box 4832
Stockton, CA 95204
(209) 465-2741
funeralconsumersalliancesi@gmail.com
www.funerals.org/affiliates/SanJoaquin/

FCA of Stanislaus/Merced Counties
P.O. Box 4252
Modesto, CA 95352
(209) 521-7690
support@fcasmc.org
www.fcasmc.org

Tri-County Memorial Funeral Society
(Serving Orange, Riverside & San Bernardino Counties)
P.O. Box 51893
Irvine, CA 92619
(714) 376-4491
info@tri-countyfunerals.org
www.tri-countyfunerals.org

FCA of California (Umbrella covering local FCA's throughout California)
P.O. Box 6788
Eureka, CA 95502
(209) 427-6086
Fcacalif@gmail.com
www.fca-calif.org

Colorado

Funeral Consumers Society of Colorado
P.O. Box 4743
Greenwood Village, CO 80155
(303) 759-2800
fucosoco@yahoo.com
www.funeralconsumercolorado.org

Connecticut

FCA of Connecticut
P.O. Box 34
Bridgewater, CT 06752
(860) 355-4197
info@funeralsct.org
www.funeralsct.org

Delaware

(Served by FCA of Maryland)

Florida

FCA of Southeast Florida
P.O. Box 32093
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33420
(954) 429-0280
fcasefl@aol.com
www.funerals.org/affiliates/SEFlorida/

FCA of Suncoast Florida
P.O. Box 15833
Sarasota, FL 34277
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FCASuncoastFL@gmail.com
www.FCASuncoastFL.com

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www.fcaga.org

Idaho

FCA of Idaho
P.O. Box 1919
Boise, ID 83701
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fcainembership@gmail.com
www.fcai.fortboise.org

Illinois

FCA of Champaign County
309 West Green Street
Urbana, IL 61801
fcacchil@gmail.com
www.funeralschampaigncounty.org

Kansas

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Louisiana

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(207) 558-1699
info@fcamaine.com
www.fcaine.net

Maryland

FCA of Maryland & Environs
P.O. Box 34177
Bethesda, MD 20827
No Phone
info@mdfunerals.org
www.mdfunerals.org

Massachusetts

FCA of Eastern Massachusetts
(Also serving central Mass)
66 Marlborough Street
Boston, MA 02116
(617) 859-7990
info@fcaemass.org
www.fcaemass.org

FCA of Western Massachusetts
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Greenfield, MA 01302
(413) 376-4747
fcaumass@gmail.com
www.funeralconsumersumass.org

Michigan

Facebook page under Partners in Parting
www.funeralinformationsociety.org
801-368-5884

Missouri

FCA of Greater Kansas City
P.O. Box 7021
Kansas City, MO 64113
(816) 561-6322
Fca.gkc@gmail.com
www.funeralskc.org

New Hampshire

No FCA Affiliate.
For education, advocacy, and price survey by Lee Webster:
(603) 236-9495
nhfrea@gmail.com
www.funeralnh.org

New Jersey

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New York

FCA of the Finger Lakes
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Ithaca, NY 14851
(607) 273-8316
info@fingerlakesfunerals.org
www.fingerlakesfunerals.org

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P.O. Box 5068
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(845) 297-7700
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www.fcavh.org

FCA of Greater Rochester
P.O. Box 77162
Rochester, NY 14617
(585) 461-1620
funeralalliancerochester@gmail.com
www.fcagr.com

FCA of Central New York
P.O. Box 67
DeWitt, NY 13214
(315) 446-0557
fcacny@gmail.com
www.fcacny.org

FCA of Western New York
(formerly Greater Buffalo Memorial Society)
(716) 244-1856
fcawny@aol.com

North Carolina

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P.O. Box 4262
Wilmington, NC 28406
(984) 464-0120
hello@funeralsnc.org
www.funeralsnc.org

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Charlotte, NC 28221
(704) 996-4524
funeralconsumersalliancecc@gmail.com

Ohio

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21600 Shaker Blvd.
Shaker Heights, OH 44122
(216) 751-5515
info@clevelandmemorialsociety.org
www.clevememorialsociety.org

FCA of Central Ohio
P.O. Box 14835
Columbus, OH 43214
(614) 263-4632
info@funeralsohio.org
www.funeralsohio.org

Oklahoma

(Served by FCA of North Texas)

Pennsylvania

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FCA of Western PA
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412-241-0705
fcawp@verizon.net

Last Rights of Central PA
780 Waupelani Dr. Ext.
State College, PA 16801
(814) 237-7605
Lhm108@psu.edu
No website

Rhode Island

FCA of Rhode Island
119 Kenyon Avenue
East Greenwich, RI 02818
(401) 884-1131
Fcairri@gmail.com
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South Carolina

FCA of South Carolina
2701 Heyward Street
Columbia, SC 29205
(803) 343-9090
Scfunerals@gmail.com
www.scfunerals.org

Tennessee

FCA of the Mid-South
P.O. Box 770388
Memphis, TN 38177
(901) 340-5259
furnissh@aol.com
www.funeralcams.org

Texas

FCA of Central Texas
3710 Cedar Street, Mailbox 13
Austin, TX 78705
(512) 480-0555
office@fcactx.org
www.fcactx.org

FCA of North Texas
2875 E. Parker Road
Plano, TX 75074
(972) 509-5686
info@fcant.org
www.fcant.org

FCA of San Antonio
P.O. Box 701884
San Antonio, TX 78270
(210) 341-2213
Fcasatx@gmail.com
www.funeraladviceatx.org

Utah

FCA of Utah
(801) 368-5884
fcuofutah@gmail.com
www.utahfunerals.org

Virginia

Memorial Society of N. Virginia
4444 Arlington Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22204
(703) 271-9270
info@memorialsocietyva.com
www.memorialsocietyva.org

FCA of Virginia Blue Ridge
P.O. Box 10082
Blacksburg, VA 24062
(540) 953-5589
fcavbr@gmail.com
www.fcavbr.org

Wisconsin

FCA of the Fox Valley
P.O. Box 1422
Appleton, WI 54912
(920) 725-6880
Ehudak2@yahoo.com
<https://www.funeralsfoxvalley.com>

FCA of Greater Milwaukee
13001 West North Avenue
Brookfield, WI 53005
(414) 731-3805
fcagm@gmail.com
www.funeralswi.org

Available Free Pamphlets

ENGLISH

How to Choose a Funeral Home
How to Arrange a Home Funeral
How to Plan a Memorial Service
Ten Tips for Saving Funeral Dollars
Green Burial: An Environmentally
Friendly Choice
Cremation Explained
Embalming Explained
Traditional Burial
Common Funeral Myths
Death Away From Home
Should You Prepay Your Funeral
Guide to Cemetery Purchases
Veterans Funeral & Burial Benefits
Organ, Body, and Brain Donation

SPANISH

Sus Derechos Funerarios
Como Cubrir Los Costos de un
Funeral
Como Elegir una Funeraria ... de
Manera Inteligente
Planificacion Funeraria de Cuatro
Pasos

IOWA WOMAN BECOMES FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Excerpts from a March 12, 2025 article by William Morris
in the Des Moines Register

Asked to describe a funeral home director, many might picture an old man in a long black coat with a distinctly creepy vibe. In reality, more and more morticians are people who look like Lanae Strovers. She is a funeral director and trainer for Hamilton Funeral Homes in Monroe, IA. She's part of a wave of younger female morticians sweeping the industry.

She's made her mark not just with the families who come to her funeral home grieving, but in caring for those who died alone and were forgotten. Her nonprofit 'The Final Salute' has helped lay to rest dozens of veterans and family members whose remains went unclaimed.

In an interview, Strovers said, "It's not about the person who died, always. Most of our job is really about the person who's living, the family, the survivors, and how we can serve them. She stressed that as a funeral director, it's important to have good communication skills, to be able to have a conversation with people, and to be able to read body language.

She was a bartender and waited tables when she was going to school and thinks that was the best practice. "You get all sorts of people and learn how to serve each one of those. It's the same concept at the funeral home" She said.

What drew Strovers to the funeral industry ? She said, " I had a very good friend and he passes away in tragic circumstances, and the funeral was horrible. It just didn't have anything to do with him. You could tell there wasn't a lot of effort that was put into it. So I went home that night and Googled 'How to be a funeral director', and a mortuary science program popped up.

When she told her parents that she wanted to be a funeral director, her dad was kind of like 'that's what men do, right ?'. Things have been changing in the last couple of years. The traditional funeral is kind of going to the side. People want that more creative, almost party planning aspect of it.

PLEASE STOP SPREADING HUMAN ASH IN PUBLIC

from a 3-12-25 item in the Kent County Daily Times, W Warwick

Every year, about 3.2 million people die in America, and two thirds are cremated. Almost half of those want their remains scattered in a sentimental place.

— Famous ballparks like Dodger Stadium, Fenway Park and Wrigley Field often have to deal with these unauthorized scatterings.

— Last year, someone on the Star Wars ride at Disneyland forced the ride to shut down for cleaning after dumping cremains.

— A woman decided to take a tour of all of our national parks and scattered a little of her husband's ashes in each one.

— Scattering from an airplane is popular. Pilot Arron Cambridge had a client who wanted to be scattered over a prison where he'd spent time 'in hopes of haunting the guards there'.

— A company called Celestis will put your beloved's ashes in a capsule and blast it into space on a rocket. Their first flight, in 1997, included the cremains of "Star Trek" creator Gene Rodenbury. He thus went boldly where no dead man had gone before.

See the full article for additional scattering stories !

NOTES: